

AP Studio Art Overview

The AP Studio Art and Design portfolios are designed for students who are seriously interested in the practical experience of art. AP Studio Art is not based on a written exam; instead, students submit portfolios for evaluation at the end of the school year. These portfolios are based on inquiry-based learning, encouraging students to document their sustained investigation of materials, processes, and ideas through practice, experimentation, and revision. Three portfolios are offered: 2-D Art & Design, 3-D Art & Design and Drawing Portfolio.

Structure of the Portfolios

The portfolios share a basic, two-section structure, which requires the student to show a fundamental competence and range of understanding in visual concerns and methods. The **Sustained Investigation** asks the student to demonstrate a depth of investigation and process of discovery through a series that focuses on a theme, concept, or subject. The **Selected Works** section permits the student to select the five works that best exhibit a synthesis of form, technique, and content.

All two sections are required and carry different weights. Sustained Investigation carries 60% weight while Selected works counts as 40% for the overall score. The works presented for evaluation may have been produced in art classes or the student's own time and may cover a time period longer than a single school year.

2D Art and Design Portfolio

This portfolio is intended to address two-dimensional (2-D) design issues. Design involves purposeful decision making about how to use the elements and principles of art in an integrative way. The *principles* of design (unity/variety, balance, emphasis, contrast, rhythm, repetition, proportion/scale, figure/ground relationships) can be articulated through the visual *elements* (line, shape, color, value, texture, space). They help guide artists in making decisions about how to organize an image on a picture plane in order to communicate content. Effective design is possible whether one uses representational or abstract approaches to art. For this portfolio, students are asked to demonstrate mastery of 2-D design through any two-dimensional medium or process, including, but not limited to, graphic design, digital imaging, photography, collage, fabric design, weaving, fashion design, fashion illustration, painting and printmaking. Video clips, DVDs, CDs and three-dimensional works may not be submitted. However, still images from videos or films are accepted. The portfolio includes 15 images representing the personal exploration of a subject or idea including the process. The 5 Selected Works represent the highest technical quality and personal expression. Students are expected to produce work that develops mastery in concept, composition, and execution of ideas.

AP Drawing Portfolio

The Drawing Portfolio is intended to address a very broad interpretation of drawing issues and media. Line quality, light and shade, rendering of form, composition, surface manipulation, the illusion of depth and mark-making are drawing issues that can be addressed through a variety of means, which could include painting, printmaking, mixed media, etc. Abstract and observational works may demonstrate drawing competence. The range of marks used to make drawings, the arrangement of those marks, and the materials used to make the marks are endless. There is no preferred (or unacceptable) style or content. Any work submitted in the Drawing Portfolio that incorporates digital or photographic processes must address issues such as those listed above. Using computer programs merely to manipulate photographs through filters, adjustments or special effects is not appropriate for the Drawing Portfolio. The portfolio includes 15 images representing the personal exploration of a subject or idea including the process. The 5 Selected Works

represent the highest technical quality and personal expression. Students are expected to produce work that develops mastery in concept, composition, and execution of ideas.

AP Studio Art: 3-D Design

This portfolio is intended to address sculptural issues. The AP 3-D Design students generally have taken sculpture or ceramics for two years following the Introduction to Art class. AP® course students and teacher meet to go over the content and structure of the class for the subsequent year in the spring. During this Design involves purposeful decision making about using the elements and principles of art in an integrative way. In the 3-D Design Portfolio, students are asked to demonstrate their understanding of design principles as they relate to the integration of depth and space, volume and surface. The *principles* of design (unity/variety, balance, emphasis, contrast, rhythm, repetition, proportion/scale, and occupied/unoccupied space) can be articulated through the visual *elements* (mass, volume, color/light, form, plane, line, texture). For this portfolio, students are asked to demonstrate mastery of 3-D design through any three-dimensional approach, including, but not limited to, figurative or nonfigurative sculpture, architectural models, metal work, ceramics, glass work, installation, assemblage and 3-D fabric/fiber arts. There is no preferred (or unacceptable) style or content. Links to samples of student work in the 3-D Design portfolio can be found on AP Central at apcentral.collegeboard.com/studio3D. The portfolio includes 15 images representing the personal exploration of a subject or idea including the process. The 5 Selected Works represent the highest technical quality and personal expression. Ten images with two views of each work are required. Students are expected to produce work that develops mastery in concept, composition, and execution of ideas.

Time Commitment

Students can expect summer assignments of 2 artworks plus 14 planning and research pages in their sketchbook. Students should plan to spend 7-14 real hours per week outside of class working on assignments. Approximately 8 sustained Investigations will be completed during the school year with corresponding planning and research along with classroom critiques.